ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A MICRO-ELECTROMECHANICAL VARIABLE CAPACTITOR

A micro-electromechanical variable capacitor with first and second capacitor plates spaced apart to define a gap therebetween. The first plate has two control electrodes and an active electrode. The second plate is movable relative to first plate when a voltage is applied to produce a potential difference across the control electrode and the second capacitor plate. This has the effect of varying the capacitance of the capacitor. The facing surface of at least one of the plates is formed in such a way that it has a roughened surface. The degree of roughness is sufficient to prevent the facing surfaces adhering together through stiction.